Application No. 09/963,652   Attorney Docket No. 040071-694
Amendment filed August 4, 2004   Page 2 of 14
Reply to Office Action dated May 6, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please **REPLACE** the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, with the following:

FIGS. 3A - 3D and 3B are block diagrams illustrating codewords generated in accordance with an embodiment of the invention;

Please **REPLACE** the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 4, with the following:

Several comments should be made with respect to the above-described embodiment. First, although a total of two sets of error detection check bits were used in the exemplary embodiment, the actual number of sets used in any particular embodiment is completely arbitrary, although in practice it is unlikely that more than two sets of error detection check bits would be necessary. Nonetheless, those of ordinary skill will recognize that those aspects related to determining the degree of desired reliability, and using a still higher level set of error detection check bits as illustrated by 307 of FIG. 3C (e.g., a third set of error detection check bits, a fourth set of error detection check bits, and so on) to check earlier bits (including not only the information bits 301 but also the bits associated with lower levels of error detection coding) could be added to the technique, as desired.

Please **REPLACE** the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 3, with the following:

In yet another alternative embodiment, the decision block 407 that determines whether greater reliability is required is employed in a different way. In this embodiment, illustrated by FIG. 3D, an indication 309 of to what degree the payload is encoded is communicated from the transmitting side to the receiver. This indication may be included within the received codeword itself. In alternative embodiments also illustrated by FIG. 3D, the data is transmitted in packets that comprise a header 300A and a payload 300B. In the header 300A, it is indicated 309 to what degree the payload is encoded. In either of these ways, the transmitter side can adapt the degree of error detection to match the application, thus avoiding

the transmission of an unnecessary amount of error detection code bits. This ability can be useful, for example, where an application, running at a higher layer of the communications protocol between transmitter and receiver, is to have the capability of configuring the lower layers to utilize an appropriate (for the particular application) level of error detection capability.